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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/829,395	04/22/2004	Issei Harima	740630-76	5423

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EXAMINER

COLETTA, LORI L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3612

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/829,395

Applicant(s)

HARIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Lori L. Coletta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4-22-04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04222004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the **beads** (claim 3) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. **The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures.** If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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3. Claims 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 5, “storage spaces and/or vertical walls formed among the storage spaces are set mutually different” is not clear. Does it positively recite: “storage spaces and vertical walls formed among the storage spaces are set mutually different” or “storage spaces or vertical walls formed among the storage spaces are set mutually different”?

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 1-13, as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by McLeod et al. 2003/0102687.

Regarding claim 1, McLeod et al. '687 discloses a resin-made floor panel structure applied in a vehicle floor, wherein rigidity distribution of floor panel is set uneven, and intervals between high rigidity portions and low rigidity portions are set uneven.

Regarding claims 2, 7, 10, 11, McLeod et al. '687 discloses the resin-made floor panel structure, wherein the base surface of the floor panel is set in a curved surface, so that the rigidity of the floor panel is set uneven.

Regarding claim 3, McLeod et al. '687 discloses the resin-made floor panel structure, wherein beads are formed in the floor panel, so that the rigidity of the floor panel is set uneven.

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Regarding claim 4, McLeod et al. '687 discloses the resin-made floor panel structure, wherein foamed portions are partly formed in the floor panel, so that the rigidity of the floor panel is set uneven.

Regarding claim 5, McLeod et al. '687 discloses the resin-made floor panel structure, wherein a plurality of concave storage spaces are integrally formed in the floor panel, and dimensions of these storage spaces and vertical walls formed among the storage spaces are set mutually different, so that the rigidity of the floor panel is set uneven.

Regarding claims 6 and 9, McLeod et al. '687 discloses the resin-made floor panel structure, wherein the mutually facing vertical walls of storage space are set not parallel to each other, so that intervals between high rigidity portions and low rigidity are set uneven.

Regarding claim 8, McLeod et al. '687 discloses the resin-made floor panel structure,, wherein vertical walls among storage spaces are set to be positioned on different lines in a plan view, so that high rigidity portions are set to be discontinuous.

Regarding claim 12, McLeod et al. '687 discloses a resin-made floor panel structure applied in a vehicle floor, integrally forming a concave spare tire storage space, wherein the spare tire storage space has a basic shape of the outer circumference formed in an arc shape in a plan view.

Regarding claim 13, McLeod et al. '687 discloses a resin-made floor panel structure applied in a vehicle floor, integrally forming a concave spare tire storage space, wherein the floor rigidity is set so that vibrations due to oscillation of the spare tire held in the spare tire space may be in reverse phase of vibrations due to idling of the vehicle.

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6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The cited references show several other floor panel structures similar to that of the current invention.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori L. Coletta whose telephone number is (703) 306-4614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:00am-2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on (703) 308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lori L. Coletta  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3612

llc  
December 23, 2004